

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2010

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Kurt Thornton, Vice-Chairperson called the meeting to order at 4:14 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Jan Hatch Kurt Thornton
Doug Sofia Susan Baldwin (City Commission Liaison)

Members Absent: Glen Harris, II, and Heather Lane-Fowler

Staff Present: Glenn Perian, Senior Planner
Eileen Wicklund, City Attorney
Leona Parrish, Admin. Assistant

ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

Planning Department staff asked that 265 Capital Avenue, N.E. be postponed until next meeting, as additional information has been requested of petitioner, and asked that a motion to Postpone to be done under New Business.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. DOUG SOFIA TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 8, 2010 MEETING WITH THE ADDITION THAT MAYOR BALDWIN BE NOTED IN ATTENDANCE; SECONDED BY MS. JAN HATCH.

ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED MOTION; PASSED TO APPROVE.

CORRESPONDENCE: Planning Staff handed-out a copy of the 2009 Annual Report; also a corrected copy of Historic District Properties Listing. Mr. Kurt Thornton provided a hand-out regarding a Scavenger Hunt suggestion for City of Battle Creek.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

265 Capital Avenue, N.E. (*Application for Demolition of Carriage House*)

Mr. Glenn Perian stated the Planning Department asked the petitioner and property owner Mr. Joseph Rocha to submit additional information regarding cost estimates for the demolition and/or renovation work prior to reviewing their application for demolition of the Carriage House.

MOTION: MADE BY MR. DOUG SOFIA TO POSTPONE THE APPLICATION REQUEST UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING WHEN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 265 CAPITAL AVENUE, N.E.; SUPPORTED BY MS. JANETH HATCH.

ALL IN FAVOR NONE OPPOSED; MOTION PASSED TO POSTPONE REVIEW OF APPLICATION UNTIL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED.

22 & 26 W. Michigan Ave. *(Mural painted on back of buildings)*

Mr. Glenn Perian stated that no action is needed from the Historic District Commission regarding this application; that it was submitted as informational only.

Mr. Andy Helmboldt, Consultant with B.C. Community Foundation was present to speak on behalf of property owners. Stated this was a youth employment project funded by the Battle Creek Community Foundation and City of Battle Creek. He introduced the four persons with him today that included the artist/coordinator and three art students; stating the mural should be an active art piece that was a collaborative art sketch of each persons work. Said this month they plan to power wash and then paint a base coat, the (6) student artists would then hand paint the mural that will have a basic concept and theme of healthy lifestyles, physical fitness and being outdoors. Mr. Helmboldt stated the theme would fit with the business as well as the location across from the Linear Park and is meant to evoke movement, physical exercise and play.

Mr. Kurt Thornton and Mr. Doug Sofia stated they were in agreement that this was a great idea. Mr. Thornton asked when the mural would be completed. Mr. Helmboldt stated hopefully mid August, but would depend on the weather.

Mr. Thornton asked who will be cleaning the exterior of the building. Ms. Eileen Wicklund stated the City will be doing the cleaning of the building, which is scheduled for June 20, 2010.

Mr. Helmboldt stated they have some re-routing of wires and gas lines on the wall that will need to be moved.

138 Ann Avenue *(Install wheelchair ramp on side of home)*

Mr. Glenn Perian stated the applicant is proposing to install a wheelchair ramp constructed of wood based on the attached work plan; the ramp addition proposal does not appear as though it would impact the historical or architectural value and significance of the resource or its relationship to the historic value of the surrounding area. Mr. Perian referenced Chapter 1470.17 "Preservation of Historic Features"; stating they recommend for approval based on the findings in the staff report.

Ms. Jenise Furman, property owner was present to speak. Stated her son is seven years old and within the next one – two years will need to use a wheelchair as he has Duchene Muscular Dystrophy and will need to be using a wheelchair more as time passes. Stated he now has a power chair that sits idol inside their home as it is quite heavy and has to be lifted inside and outside. Ms. Furman stated they have five bids for the funding of building the ramp which would be constructed of wood and would be five-feet wide (see diagram) that can be removed at a later date.

MOTION: MADE BY MR. DOUG SOFIA TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION REQUEST FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WHEELCHAIR RAMP AS REQUESTED ON THE APPLICATION. STATED IT MEETS THE CRITERIA OF THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR'S STANDARDS IN CHAPTER 1470.17 AS NOTED IN THE STAFF REPORT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 138 ANN AVENUE; SUPPORTED BY MS. JANETH HATCH.

ALL IN FAVOR NONE OPPOSED; MOTION PASSED TO POSTPONE REVIEW OF APPLICATION UNTIL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Laurie Sullivan, City Commissioner, was present to speak regarding property submitted to the Historic District for demolition; stating she does not have a problem with the razing of a historic property as long as they do not just use the excuse that they do not have the funds for the repair work. Ms. Sullivan asked that the Historic District Commission carefully consider before approving demolitions. Stated there may be more properties to come before the HDC asking for approval to be demolished; she asked if there was any funding available for historic property repairs.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STAFF:

Mr. Kurt Thornton stated he thought there was possibly some funding from BCU; said he had not heard anymore information regarding any available funding.

Mayor Baldwin stated the HDC needs to be careful of putting a burden of cost upon property owners.

Ms. Eileen Wicklund asked the Historic District Commission if they would like for the Attorney's Office to provide training on making motions regarding the standards to be used; stated between herself and Christine Hilton they would be happy to help members in any way possible. Mr. Kurt Thornton stated it would be helpful.

Mr. Thornton referenced the hand-out he provided regarding the Historic District Commission sponsoring a Scavenger Hunt of historic sites in Battle Creek; asked if they would like to pursue and if so he would provide more information.

Mr. Thornton also provided a hand-out of W.K.K. Airport showing photos of it in its original state and also through the years; noted it is scheduled to be torn down.

Mayor Baldwin stated they are working on appointing two new members; noted that a form has been created and has been put on the web site to be filled out by citizens and used to provide some qualifications that might be needed for appointing to different boards and commissions.

Mr. Doug Sofia asked the commission if they had heard anything regarding the old SEMCO building possibly being torn down; said it used to be the old ice-house near Normans. No one had heard of any information regarding this demolition. (Note: it does not fall within an historic district).

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Mr. Doug Sofia to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Ms. Jan Hatch; all in favor none opposed. Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 P.M.

Submitted by: Leona A. Parrish, Administrative Assistant, Planning Department